

Serial No. 10/015,849

application is likely to issue after issuance of the above-referenced copending application and the rejection is maintained.

B. Objection To The Drawings

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference signs mentioned in the description:

27 – absorbent tissue product

145 – primary pattern

64 – circular primary pattern.

Applicants submit that the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn because Figures 10 and 11 have been amended to show the curvilinear primary pattern 64 with the elevated transition region as supported in the specification at page 38, line 27 to page 41, line 17; Figure 25 has been amended to show the primary pattern 145 with the elevated transition region 62 as supported in the specification at page 52, lines 19 - 32; and, Figures 27, 29, and 30 have been amended to show the absorbent tissue product 27 as supported in the specification at page 55, line 14 to page 56, line 27. Circle-marked copies of the Figures 10, 11, 25, 27, 29, and 30 have been attached to this response.

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "44a" and "44b" have both been used to designate the same upper warp in Figure 8. Applicants submit that the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn because Figure 8 has been corrected to show the proper location of "44b" as supported in the specification at page 26, lines 11 - 31 and page 22, line 8 to page 26, line 5. A circle-marked copy of Figure 8 has been attached to this response.

The drawings were objected to because Figure 9 failed to show the contrast between the white floats and the gray intermediate knuckles and shutes as described in the specification on page 27. Applicants submit that the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn because the original Figure 9 clearly shows the contrast between the white floats and the gray intermediate knuckles and shutes.

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C. Objection To The Specification

The specification was objected to because of the informality wherein the paragraph on page 11, lines 13 - 21, the sentence beginning "In the production of endless fabrics, the normal orientation of warps and shutes, according to common weaving terminology, is reversed" as not being a factual statement. Applicants are attaching pages 38 and 39 of the *Paper Machine Clothing* by Sabit Adanur (Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Technomic Publishing Company, 1997). Figures 2 and 3 on page 39 of the *Paper Machine Clothing* show that the warps on the loom become machine direction strands on a conventional seamed fabric (such as a flat woven fabric) as installed on a papermachine. In addition, the warps on the loom become the cross direction strands on an endless fabric. In view of these remarks, Applicants believe the specification is correct and that the objection should be withdrawn.

D. Rejection Of Claims 23, 42, and 43 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 23, 42, and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner stated that Claim 23 includes the phrase "wherein the transition region is filled" is undefined. The Examiner stated that it was uncertain what is meant by "filled". A definition of "filled" is provided on page 11, beginning at line 5:

As used herein, a "filled" transition region is defined as a transition region where the space between the floats in the transition region is partially or completely filled with material, raising the height in the transition area. The filling material may be porous. The filling material may be any of the materials discussed hereinafter for use in the construction of fabrics. The filling material may be substantially deformable, as measured by High Pressure Compressive Compliance (defined hereinafter).

The Examiner stated that Claims 42 and 43 include the phrase "non-macroscopically monoplanar" and "macroscopically monoplanar", respectively, which is undefined. The Examiner stated that it uncertain what feature of the fabric structure is considered to be non-macroscopically monoplanar and macroscopically monoplanar. Applicants point out that the term "macroscopically

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monoplanar" is a term commonly used in the art referring to papermaking fabrics having elevated regions at a uniform height suitable for imprinting operations, in which a tissue web on an imprinting fabric is pressed by a roll against a Yankee dryer to impart a pattern of densified regions. Such an imprinting process uses a fabric with raised elements at uniform height in order for the imprinting nip to function properly. Thus, the imprinting papermaking fabric generally has a pattern of elevated regions at substantially the same height for this operation. Since the most elevated regions lie in a single plane across the fabric at a macroscopic scale, the term "macroscopically monoplanar" is commonly applied in describing the imprinting papermaking fabric. When a papermaking fabric is not macroscopically monoplanar, most of the elevated regions defining the pattern of the papermaking fabric may lie at an arbitrary variety of heights. See also U.S. Patent No. 4,529,480 issued on July 16, 1985, incorporated by reference in the present application.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe the rejections should be withdrawn.

E. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 - 22, 24 - 41, 44 - 53, and 57 - 63 were indicated to be allowable.

F. Conclusion

The application now contains Claims 1 - 63 which are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful attention paid to the present application. Early allowance of the claims in view of the above remarks is earnestly requested.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

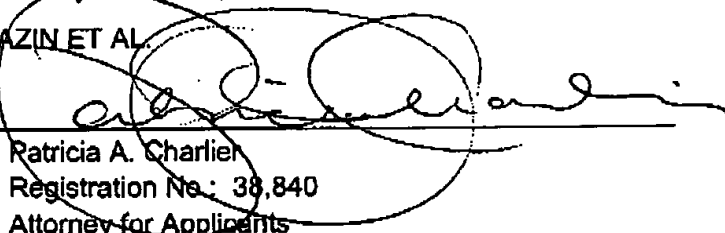
Serial No. 10/015,849

The undersigned may be reached at: (920) 721-7671.

Respectfully submitted,

BURAZIN ET AL

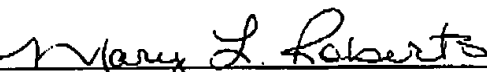
By:


Patricia A. Charlier
Registration No.: 38,840
Attorney for Applicants

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I, Mary L. Roberts, hereby certify that on February 27, 2003 this document is being sent by facsimile transmission to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. via RightFax number (703) 872-9310.

By:


Mary L. Roberts

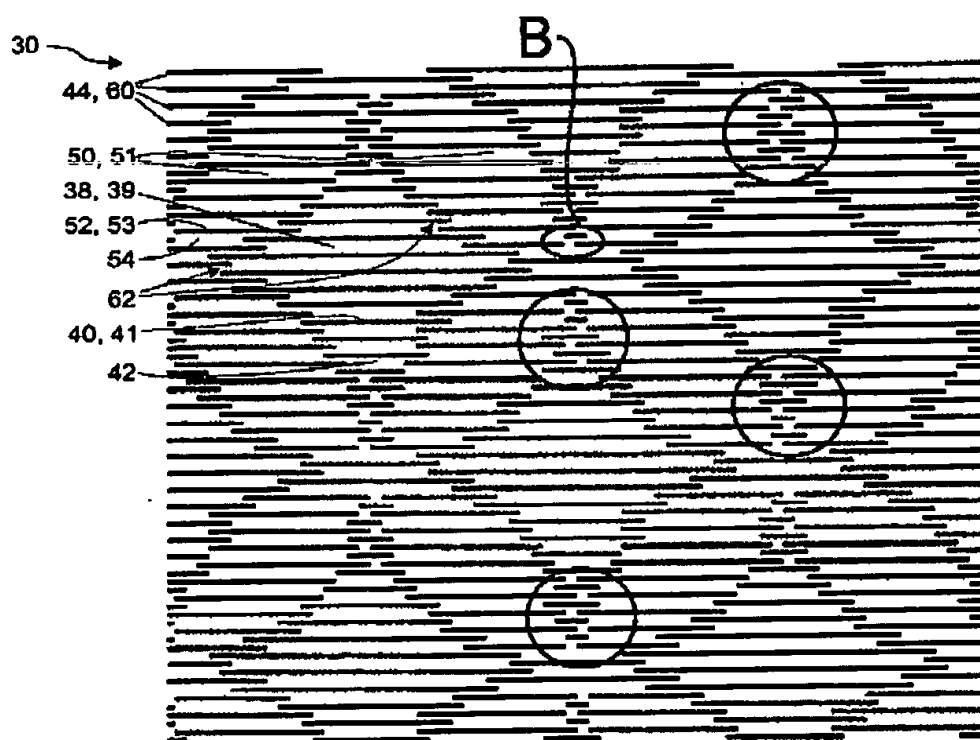


FIGURE 1B (Marked)
-up

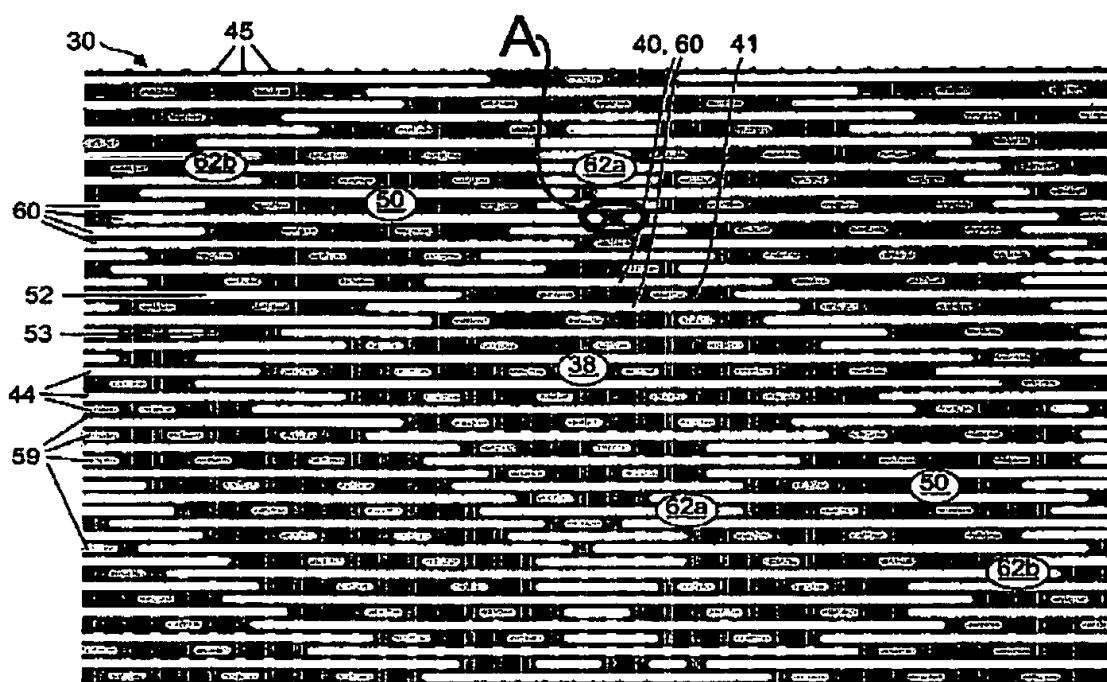


FIGURE 9 (Marked-up)

Marked-Up Figures 8, 10, 11, 25, 27, 29 and 30

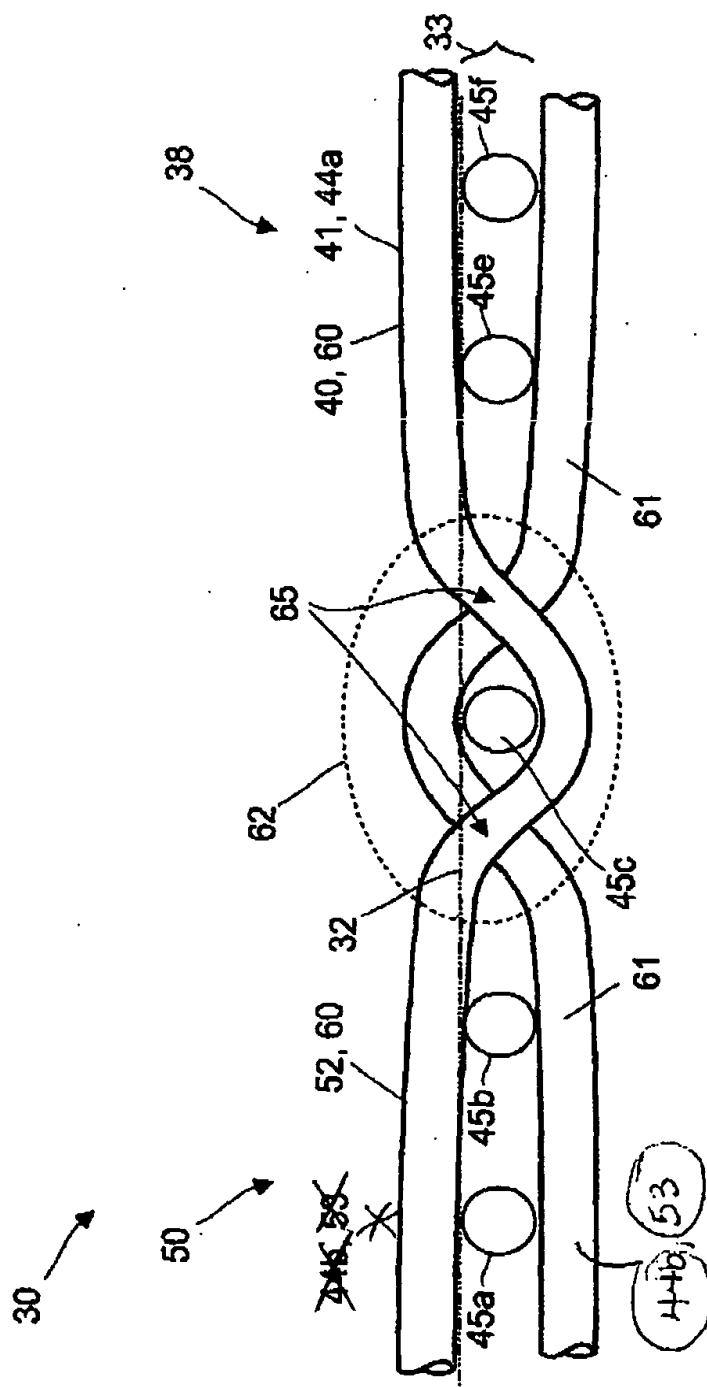


FIGURE 8

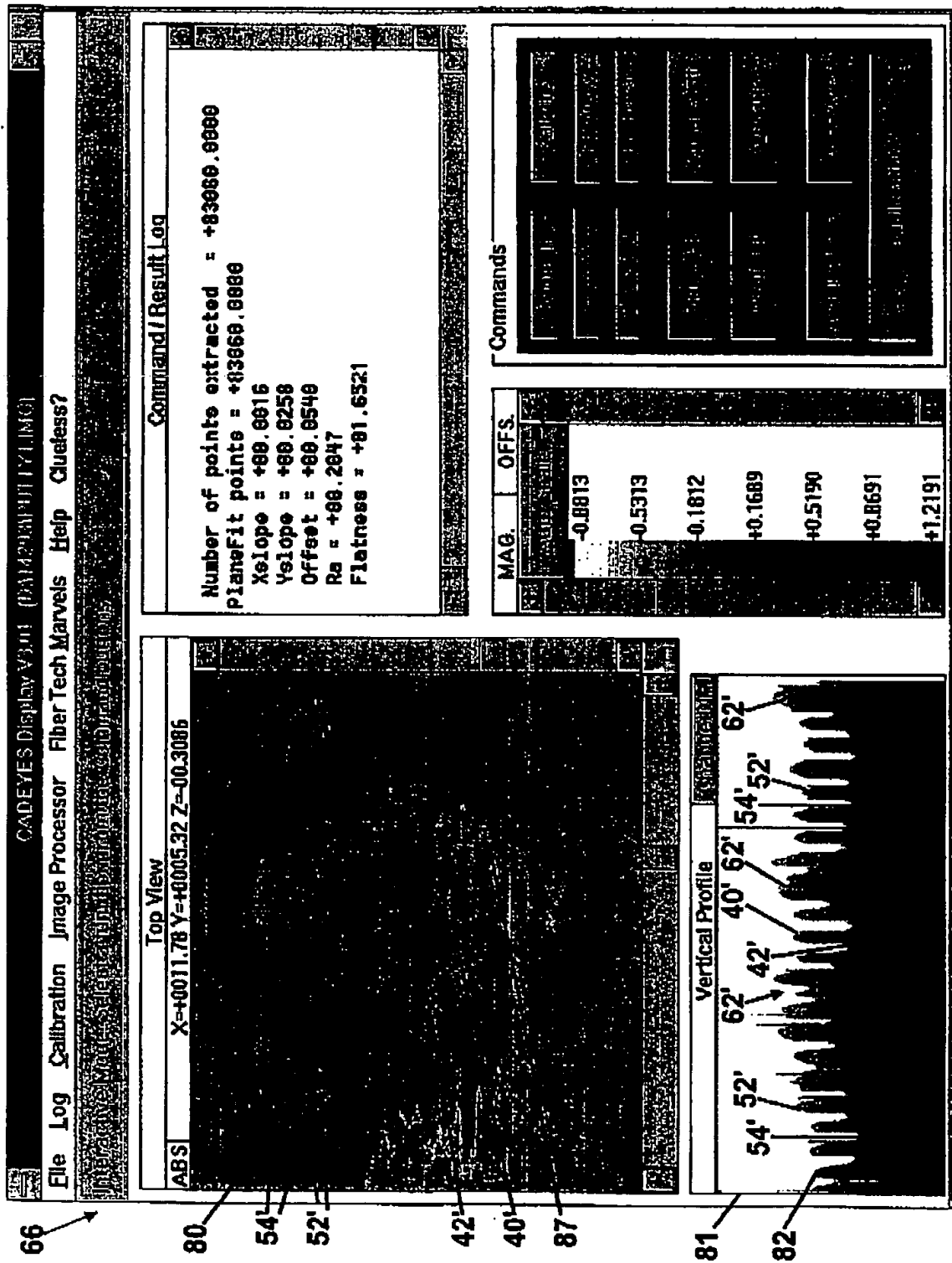
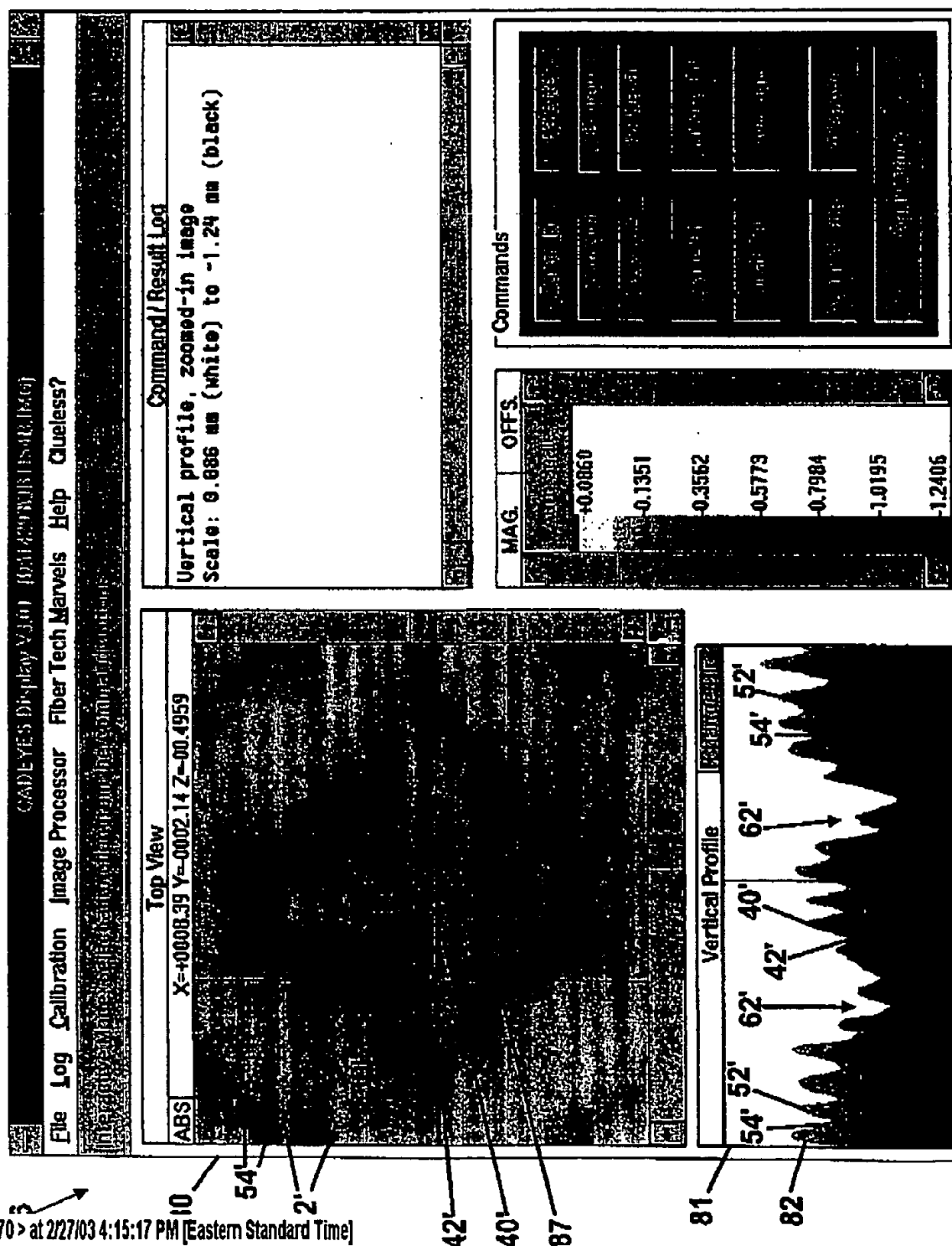
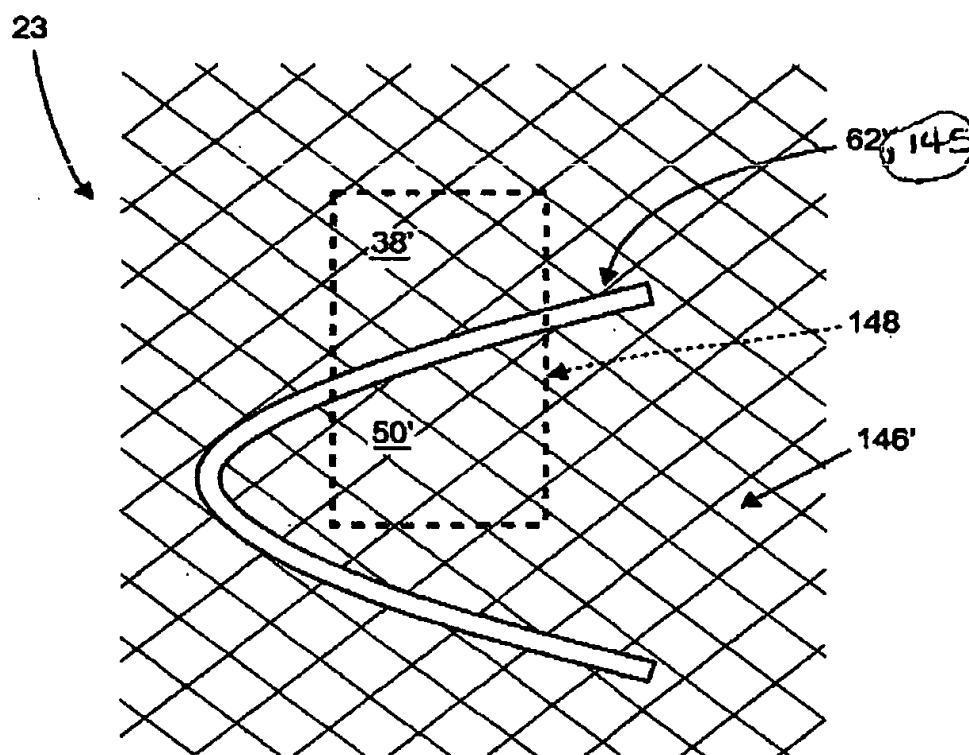


FIGURE 10.



**FIGURE 25**

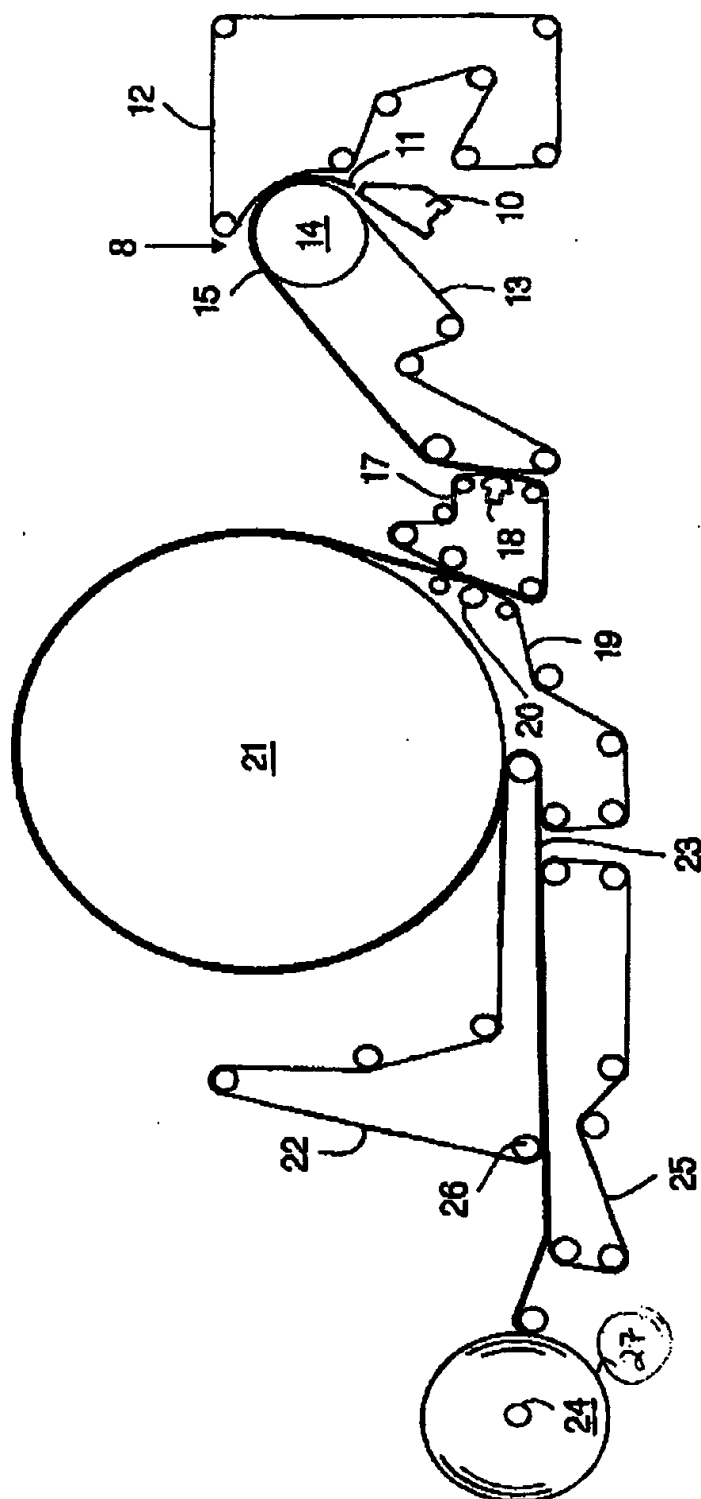
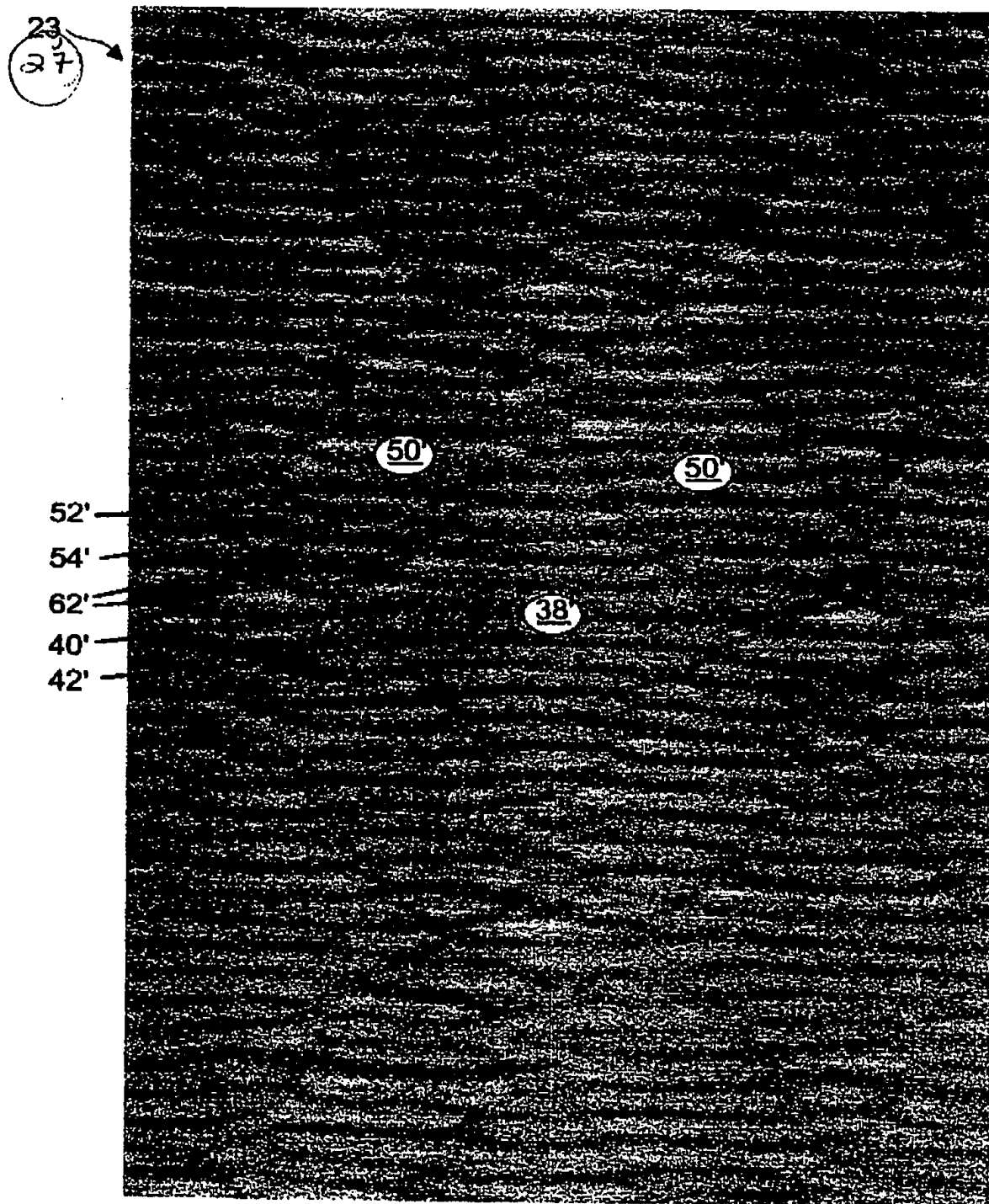
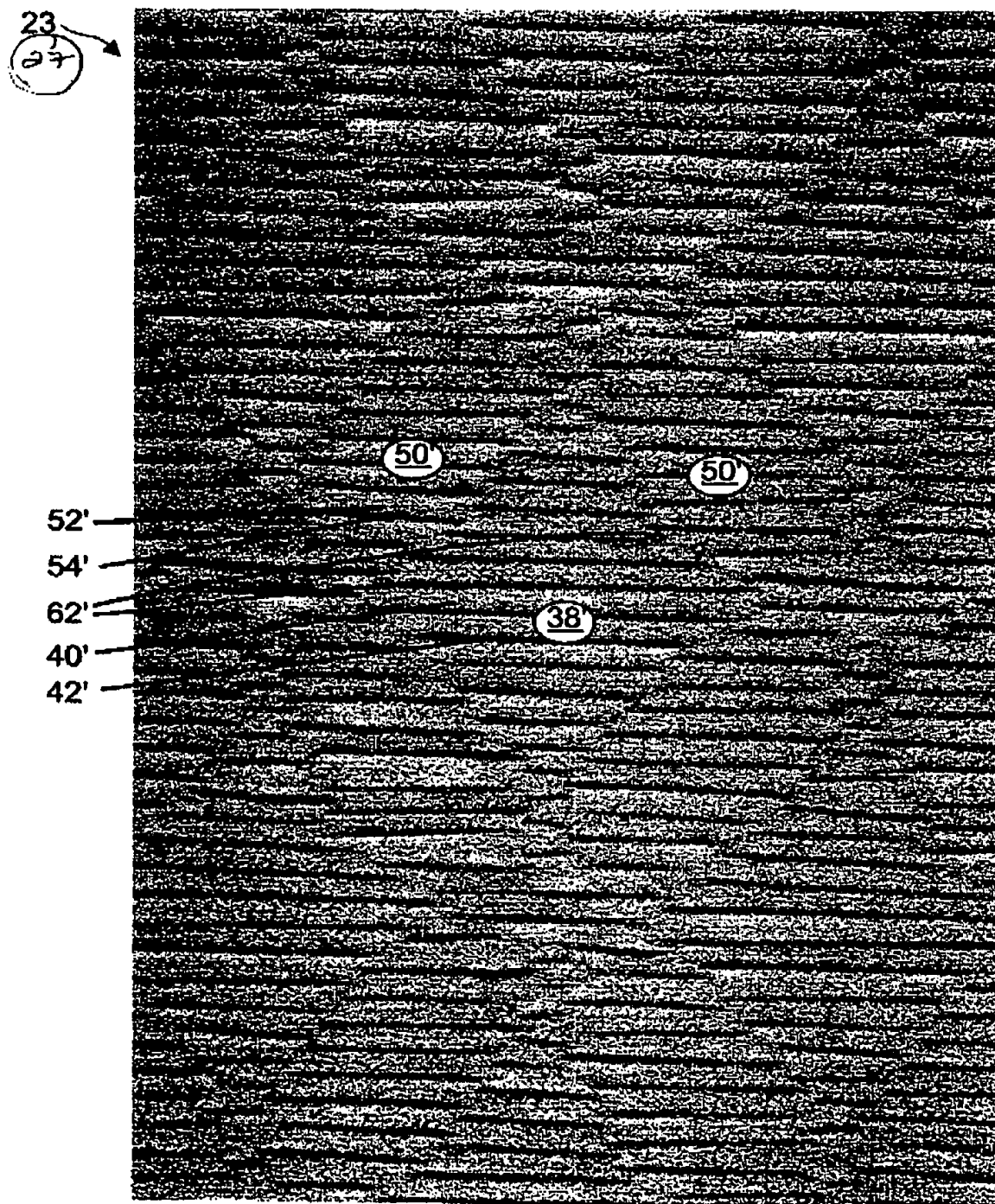


FIGURE 27

**FIGURE 29**

**FIGURE 30**

**New Figures 8, 10, 11, 25, 27, 29 and 30
Incorporating Changes Made**

Title: Method Of Manufacture Of Tissue Products Having Visually Discernable Background Texture Regions Bordered By Curvilinear Decorative Elements Using Fabrics Comprising Nonwoven Elements
Inventors: M. A. Burazin et al.

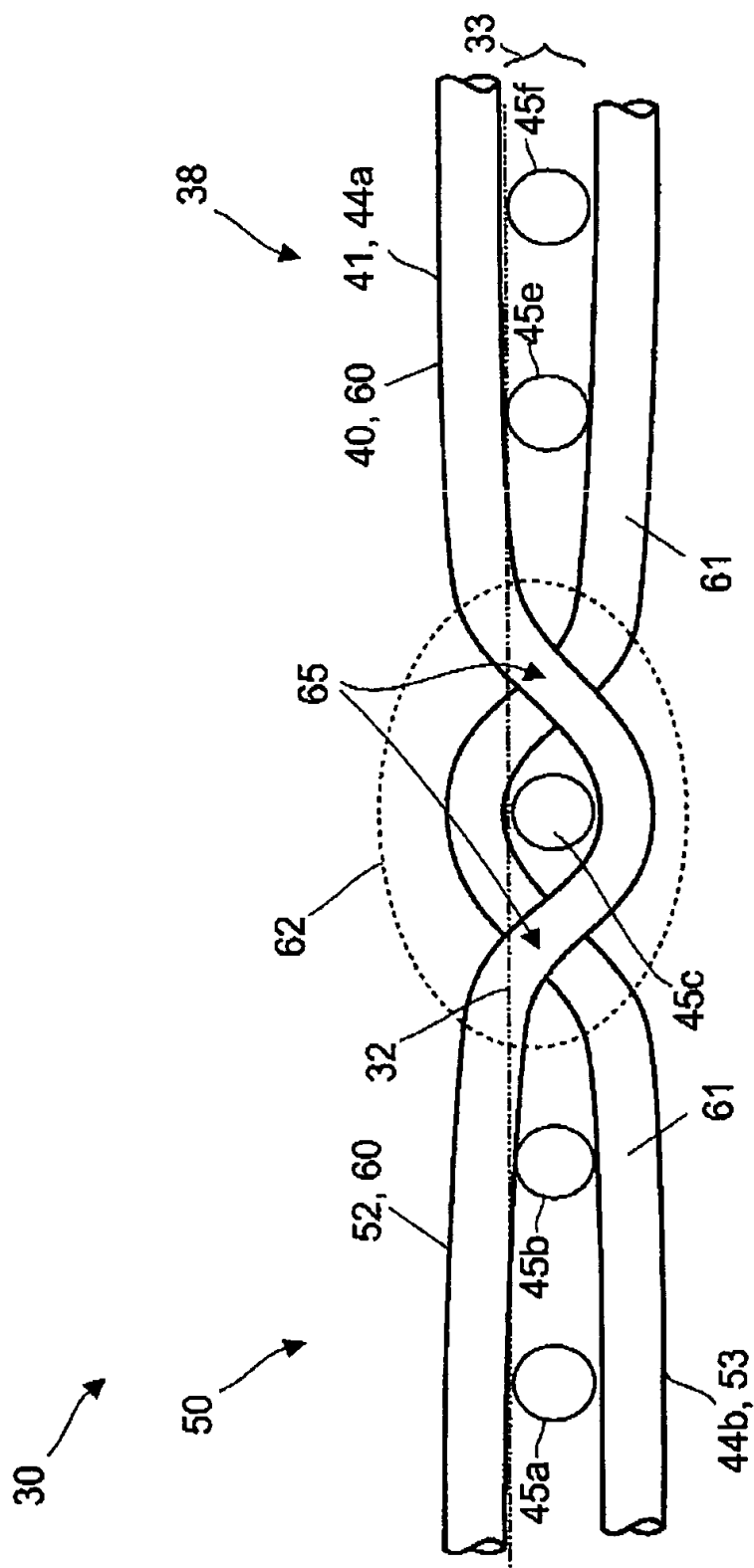


FIGURE 8

Title: Method Of Manufacture Of Tissue Products Having Visually Discernable Background Texture Regions Bordered By Curvilinear Decorative Elements Using Fabrics Comprising Nonwoven Elements
Inventors: M. A. Burazin et al.

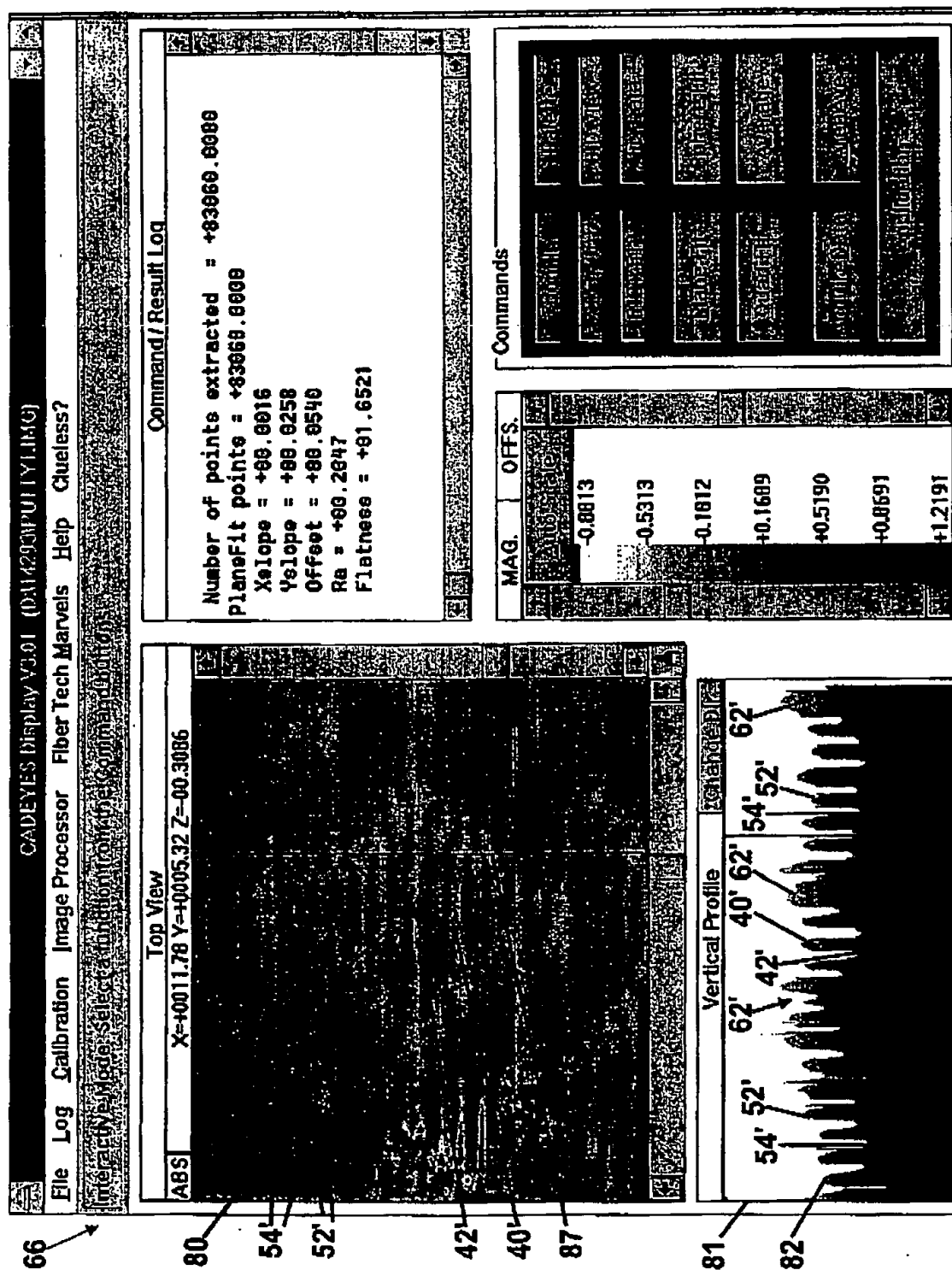


FIGURE 10.

Title: Method Of Manufacture Of Tissue Products Having Visually Discernable Background Texture Regions Bordered By Curvilinear Decorative Elements Using Fabrics Comprising Nonwoven Elements
Inventors: M. A. Burazin et al.

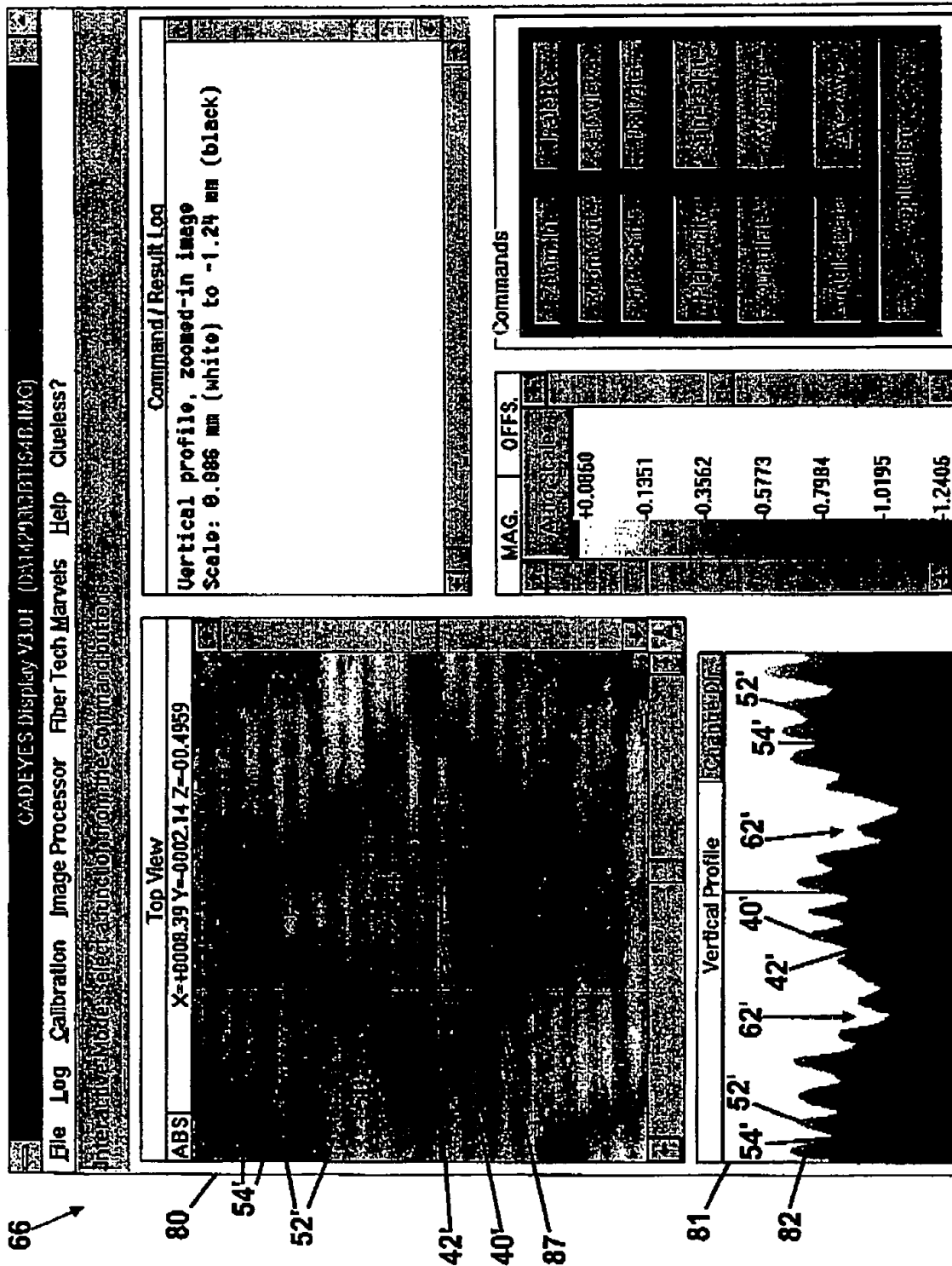
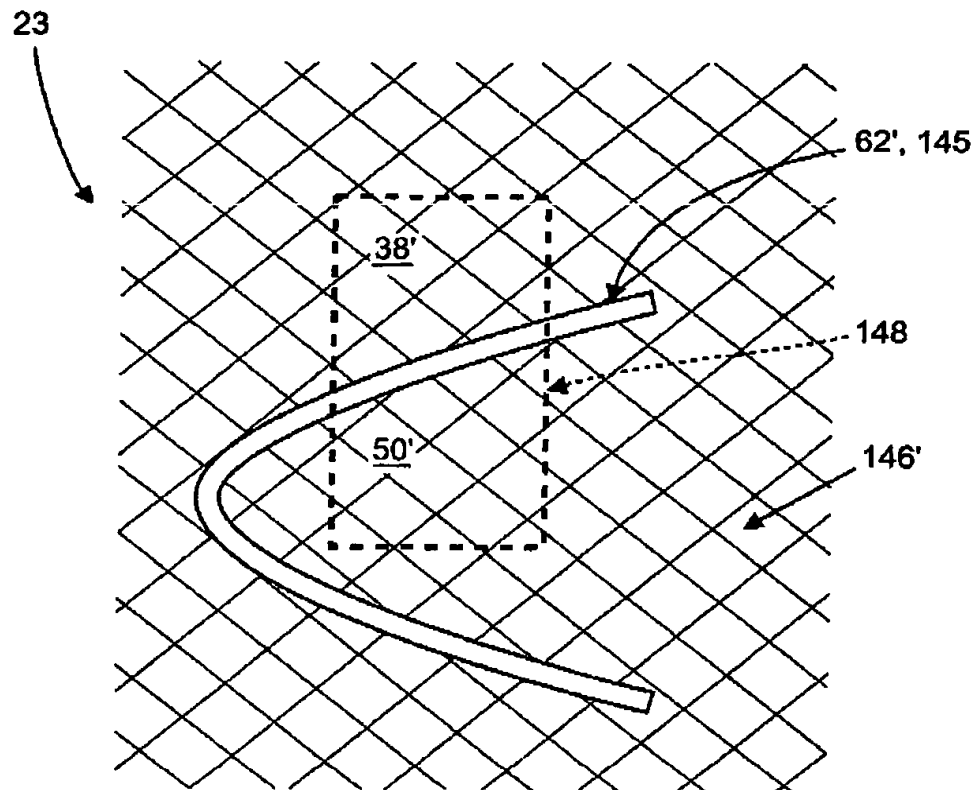


FIGURE 11.

Title: Method Of Manufacture Of Tissue Products Having Visually
Discernable Background Texture Regions Bordered By Curvilinear
Decorative Elements Using Fabrics Comprising Nonwoven Elements
Inventors: M. A. Burazin et al.

**FIGURE 25**

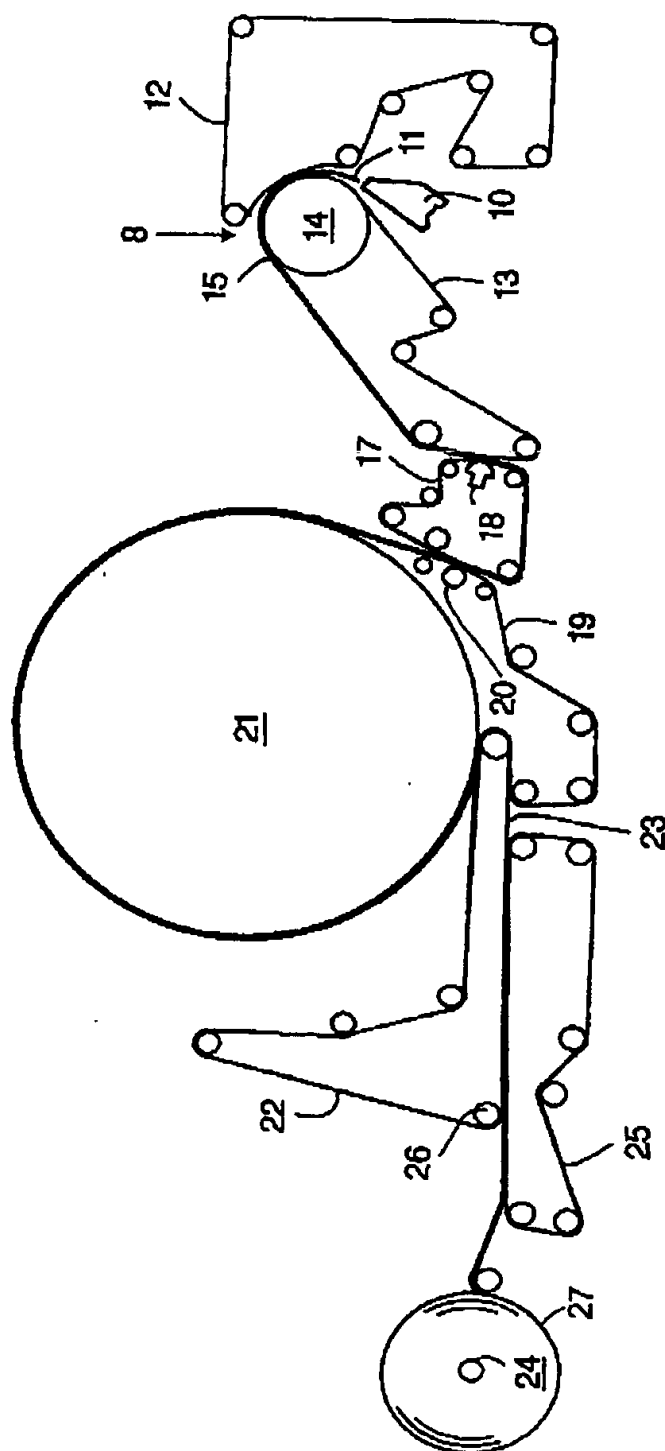


FIGURE 27

Patent No. 14,920E
Title: Method Of Manufacture Of Tissue Products Having Visually
Discernable Background Texture Regions Bordered By Curvilinear
Decorative Elements Using Fabrics Comprising Nonwoven Elements
Inventors: M. A. Burezin et al.

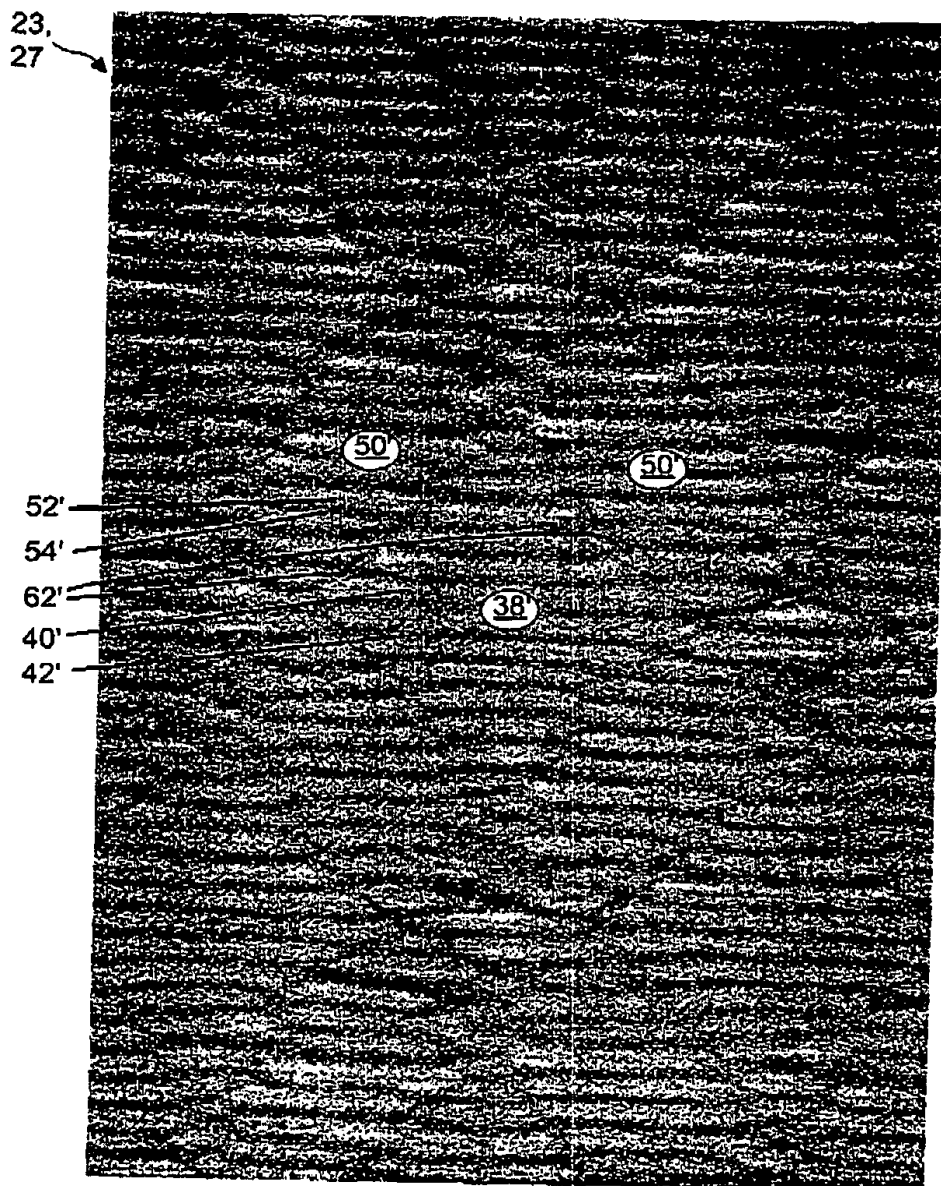
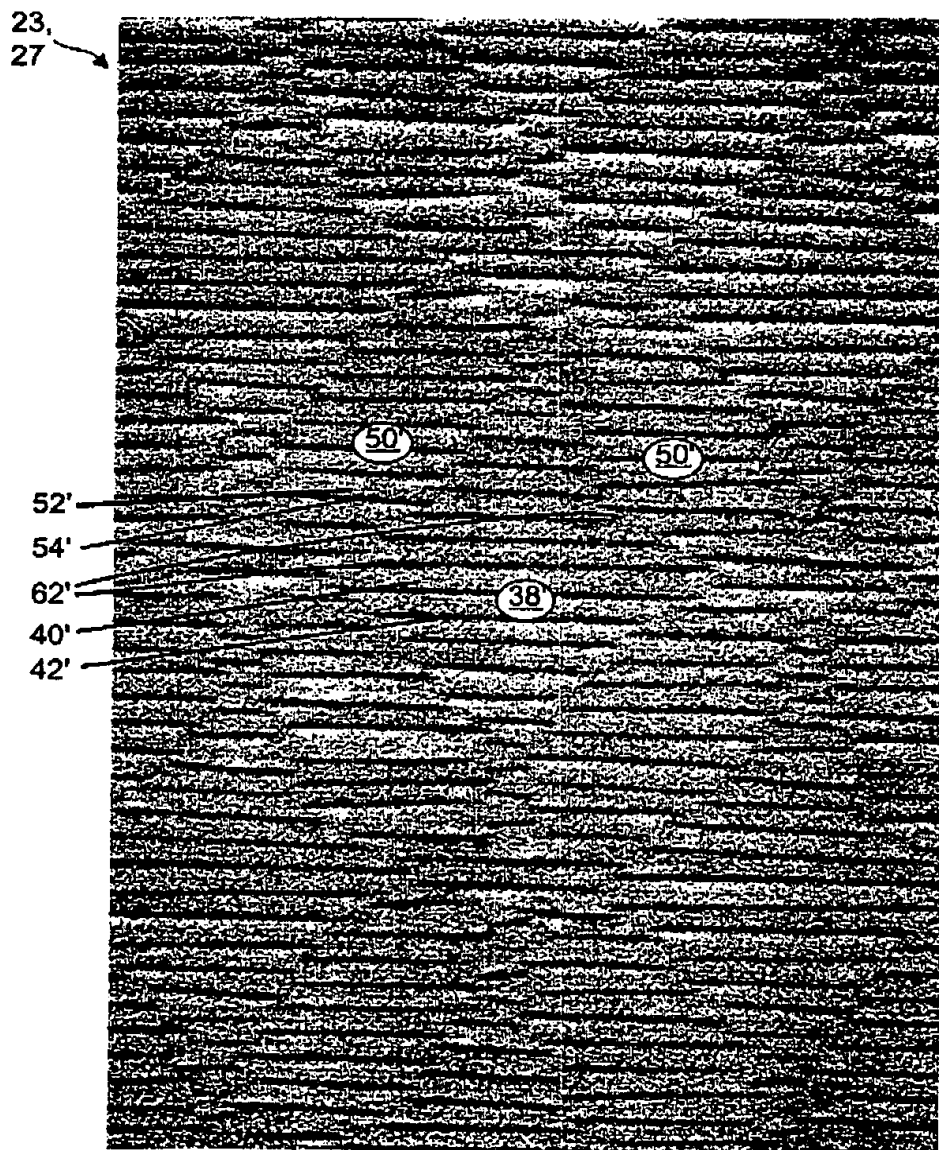


FIGURE 29

DOCKET NO.: 19,340E

Title: Method Of Manufacture Of Tissue Products Having Visually
Discernable Background Texture Regions Bordered By Curvilinear
Decorative Elements Using Fabrics Comprising Nonwoven Elements

Inventors: M. A. Burazin et al.

**FIGURE 30**